

Britain sends warplanes to Cyprus

LONDON (R) — Britain Friday ordered six planes to Cyprus to be ready to protect the British contingent of the multi-national peacekeeping force in Lebanon, the Defence Ministry announced. The planes are Buccaneers, long-range strike aircraft armed with a wide range of conventional bombs and missiles. A ministry spokesman said they had already left for the British Air Force Base at Akrotiri, Cyprus. The Buccaneers would provide air support if the need should arise to protect the 97-man British military contingent, which has come under fire while on peacekeeping duty in Lebanon, the spokesman added.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Nicaragua reports naval clash

MANAGUA (R) — The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said Friday Nicaraguan and Honduran patrol boats clashed Thursday and were still facing each other Friday off the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. A Defence Ministry spokesman said the clash occurred when two Nicaraguan navy vessels gave chase to a Honduran boat fishing illegally in Nicaraguan territorial waters off the northeastern coast of Nicaragua. After pursuing the fishing boat northwards towards Honduras, the Nicaraguan vessels were attacked by three Honduran patrol boats, the spokesman said. It added that the Nicaraguan vessels responded to the attack "exercising their legitimate right to defence." The Nicaraguan and Honduran vessels were still facing each other Friday off the Laguna de Bisimón, an inlet just south of the Honduran border, it added.

Rebels attack Nicaragua by air, page 8

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Crown Prince congratulates North Korea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a congratulatory cable to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of DPRK's national day marked Friday. The Crown Prince wished President Kim progress and success in realising the North Korean people's hopes for further prosperity.

International trade union groups condemn Turkey

BRUSSELS (R) — Two international trade union groups have condemned what they called human rights abuses in Turkey and have urged Western governments to put pressure on the country's leaders to restore democracy. In separate statements to mark the third anniversary on Sept. 12 of Turkey's military coup, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) accused the Turkish government of only pretending to favour a return to democracy.

Zimbabwe to deport 2 airforce officers

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe prepared to deport Friday night two of six white air force officers who were cleared of sabotage charges last week and redeployed under emergency laws. The former Zimbabwe air force deputy commander, Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slatter, and ex-Director of Operations Philip Pile were to be declared undesirable people and put on a flight to Britain, the Home Affairs (interior) Ministry said. Mr. Slatter, 41, Mr. Pile, 43, and four others were acquitted after the high court rejected confessions that all six had helped three alleged South African agents blow up military aircraft at Zimbabwe's Thornhill Air Base.

Iran criticises U.N. resolution on Palestine

LONDON (R) — Iran Friday criticised the final declaration of a United Nations Conference on Palestine for implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist. The National News Agency IRNA, received in London, quoted a Foreign Minister statement as saying the conference resolution showed "blatant disregard for the Palestinian people." The Iranian Foreign Ministry statement said the resolution "was tantamount to endorsing the entity of that usurping regime (Israel) and sanctioning its 35 years of aggression against the oppressed people of Palestine."

Ethiopia releases 1,163 prisoners

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia says it has freed 1,163 prisoners from the country's jails, including 117 who were being held for political reasons, to mark the ninth anniversary of the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie. Announcing the measure Thursday night, Ethiopian Television said the release was part of an amnesty similar to one last September when more than 700 political prisoners were released.

Relief supplies fail to get through to Deir Al Qamar

Marines come under heavy fire

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. Marines came under renewed artillery fire Friday and a Red Cross convoy trying to bring relief supplies to thousands of Christian refugees was reported to have been diverted by gunmen.

A. Marines spokesman said more than a dozen rounds believed to be mortar bombs crashed around the base at Beirut Airport, putting them on full alert. No U.S. positions were hit and the Marines, part of a multinational force with French, Italian and British units, did not retaliate as they have done in the past, he said. Meanwhile, a relief convoy of food and medicine for an estimated 40,000 Christian refugees from fighting between Christians and Druze fighters failed to get through for the second day running. A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said four lorries full of food were diverted before reaching the Druze-encircled town of Deir Al Qamar, 40 kilometres south-east of Beirut. "They were stopped at the

nearby town of Beiteddin and had to take another road in another direction," she said. "We are still in contact to try and get the convoy back." Earlier Friday French warplanes streaked over gun positions east of Beirut after a French soldier was wounded in shellfire. A French embassy spokesman said two Super-Etendard fighter-bombers took off from the aircraft carrier Foch off the Lebanese coast on a mission to photograph hostile gun emplacements. A French foreign legionnaire in the four-nation Beirut peace force was wounded when a shell hit the gardens of the 2,000-strong contingent's headquarters in the old ambassadorial residence. Several shells crashed nearby, and one set a nearby hospital ablaze. The attack brought French casualties since Aug. 29 to seven



Lebanese volunteers Wednesday carry one of the injured people after a car bomb exploded in Beirut killing six people and injuring many others (A.P. wirephoto)

dead and 20 wounded. Politicians and officials have appealed for international aid for the refugees in Deir Al Qamar, the main Christian centre in the Shouf mountains 40 kilometres southeast of Beirut, since Druze fighters began closing in on it. The Israelis withdrew from the Beirut outskirts on Sunday, setting off a full-scale war between Syrian-backed Druze fighters and rightist Christian militiamen struggling for control of the high mountains. Just east of the U.S. Marine pos-

itions there are poor Muslim suburbs where Shi'ite Muslim militiamen are in control. A little further, there are Christian militiamen. Beyond that are Syrian-backed Druze militias and eventually, Syrian army troops. The Marines never say who they think has fired on them. On Thursday, both the Marines at the airport and the frigate Bowen offshore blasted a gun position after it twice opened shellfire on the Marines. The Marines said the gun was knocked out but they did not say

who they thought was manning it. The gun appeared to be in an area controlled by anti-government Druze militiamen but other militias are not far away and there was no confirmation as to whom the Americans had hit. About 10 rockets landed close to the U.S. positions late Thursday night but there were no casualties and the U.S. forces did not shoot back. A Christian militia spokesman said his men were bearing down on the key crossroads town of Qabr Shmoun.

'Fateh has not lost confidence in Syria'

KUWAIT (R) — A close aide of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was quoted as saying in a newspaper interview that the Fateh command and leadership had not lost confidence in Syria, despite recent differences. Khalil Al Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, told the Kuwait daily

Al Watan: "The Fateh leadership has not lost confidence in Syria as a result of recent disputes." Mr. Arafat was expelled from Damascus on June 24 after accusing the Syrian government of supporting rebels in Fateh seeking a harder political line. But Mr. Wazir, deputy com-

mander of PLO forces, said the PLO was not ready to sacrifice the independence of Palestinian decision-making. "We will not retreat by a single millimetre when it comes to compromising our right to take independent national decisions," he added.

Damascus radio criticises U.S. role in Lebanon

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Friday criticised the United States for what it said was its military involvement in the fighting in Lebanon. "The United States has revealed its ugly role in the fighting in Lebanon by firing rockets at Lebanese national forces," state-run Damascus radio said in a commentary. The commentary was referring to Thursday's incident when U.S. Marine peace-keeping forces called in supporting fire from a U.S. frigate against a gun position on a hill south-east of Beirut Airport which had shelled American positions.

Syria denies involvement In Paris Syria's ambassador to France Friday denied any Syrian involvement in recent shelling of French troops with the mul-

tinational force in Lebanon in which two French soldiers have died and several have been wounded. "I wish to categorically deny everything which has been said and repeated about some sort of Syrian responsibility for the shelling in question," Ambassador Youssef Chakour said in a French Television interview. After shells hit the French military headquarters in Beirut on Wednesday, France sent up Super Etendard jets from the aircraft carrier Foch and said it would strike back if the fire continued, a warning seen as aimed at Syria. But Mr. Chakour said a rapid telephone call from French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson to officials in Damascus over the incident had been a "friendly" request for Syrian intervention to end the artillery fire.

Saudi envoy leaves Syria for Cyprus

DAMASCUS (R) — A special Saudi envoy trying to mediate in the Lebanon crisis left Damascus for Cyprus Friday for talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's National Security Adviser Wadie Haddad, Saudi officials said. The officials said Prince Bandar Bin Sultan had talks in Damascus Thursday night with Lebanon's Druze leader, Walid Junblat, whose forces have been fighting right-wing Christian Falangists for

control of mountain areas near Beirut. Prince Bandar, the kingdom's new ambassador to the United States, arrived unexpectedly in Damascus Thursday and immediately had talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. His arrival in Syria came less than 24 hours after Saudi Arabia said it had decided to freeze its efforts to mediate between Syria and Lebanon because of a failure to achieve results.

The Saudi officials said Prince Bandar's meetings were part of renewed Saudi mediation efforts. No details emerged from Prince Bandar's meetings with Mr. Assad and Mr. Junblat. Mr. Junblat said Thursday his Druze forces would not accept a ceasefire unless the Lebanese army and Falangist forces withdrew from Mount Lebanon. The Saudi officials said Prince Bandar was expected to return to Damascus later Friday.

Korean community holds ceremony for KAL victims

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Korean community in Jordan Thursday condemned the Soviet Union for shooting down a South Korean jet last week but rejected demands that it should pay compensation for the airliner and its 269 crew and passengers. After 10 days of partly conflicting statements from Moscow, Chief of Staff Nikolai Ogarkov told a news conference that Soviet fighters shot down the airliner with missiles when it ignored orders to land.

He said the Korean plane flew over a missile base in the south of Sakhalin Island in the eastern Soviet Union and there could be no doubt it was on a premeditated espionage mission. In Tokyo, police said a Japanese fishing boat had found the body of a child in the sea near where the Korean plane was shot down. An autopsy showed a metal fragment in the child's brain and glass splinters in the chest, the police said. Western anger over the incident showed no signs of abating and 16

Union and demanding an apology for their "criminal and barbaric act and to punish all those responsible for shooting down the airliner," the resolution said. The ceremony was attended by more than 200 members of the community during which a detailed report of the tragic event was given. Prayers were offered for the victims and sticks of incense were lit by the community members and adopted a resolution the text of which will be forwarded to the United Nations. The community, excluding

some of the workers, consists of 1,400 members. Thursday's prayers were offered for all the 15 different nationalities who lost their lives in the incident. "This is a traditional custom," said Mr. Kwang of the South Korean embassy in Amman. "We hold similar ceremonies for the workers who lose their lives in tragic accidents during work." "Human beings are born equal, they live in a society equally and pass to the other world equally. That is what we believe in," said

Mr. Kwang. The resolution, which was adopted during the ceremony, also demanded that the Soviet Union provide full and complete compensation for the loss of the aircraft, the passengers and the crew members. It urged the Soviet Union to guarantee an "unimpeded investigation by the representatives of international organisations and the Republic of Korea, and we request the Soviets to guarantee against the recurrence of such an inhuman crime."

Gromyko meets Mitterrand

PARIS (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko brushed aside questions about last week's shooting down of a Korean airliner after a two-hour meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand Friday.

As he left the Elysee Palace, Mr. Gromyko said his meeting with Mr. Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson revealed some differences but he did not elaborate. He said the talks covered "many problems of Soviet-French relations and international relations. We talked about nuclear weapons and the Geneva negotiations. We talked about some regional events."

The Soviet foreign minister described the talks as "substantial" but did not describe the atmosphere. Before the meeting, which ran much longer than expected, Mr. Cheysson made clear Mr. Gromyko would be closely questioned over the airliner incident, which has caused an outcry in France. Presidential spokesman Michel Vauzelle said the talks covered Afghanistan, the Middle East, Africa, Poland, human rights and the Geneva negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles. Mr. Mitterrand had reiterated France's views on the Korean airliner incident and listened to "long explanations" from Mr. Gromyko on this and other topics. The spokesman said the president expressed his country's view on all questions.

Bonn is optimistic about breakthrough in Geneva

MADRID (R) — West Germany said Friday there was a possible sign of an important new Soviet concession that could lead to a breakthrough in the Geneva negotiations on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told reporters he thought it "remarkable" that in talks he had with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Thursday, Mr. Gromyko had conceded that French and British missiles could also be considered as strategic weapons. Soviet insistence so far that the French and British systems must be taken into account in negotiating mutual East-West missile

reductions has been a major barrier to progress in Geneva. Mr. Genscher told a press conference that Mr. Gromyko said the French and British missiles had "two faces" and could be seen as both strategic and medium-range weapons. He noted that in 1980, the then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, and Mr. Gromyko had agreed that the French and British rockets were purely strategic and could therefore be excluded from the Geneva talks. Mr. Genscher said he regarded Mr. Gromyko's remarks "in a positive sense" and added that they could represent a new phase in the Soviet negotiating position.

Ceausescu hails Madrid agreement on security

VIENNA (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, in a speech published Friday, welcomed adoption of a final document at the Madrid session of the European Security Conference and said he believed it could usher in a new stage of East-West détente. Mr. Ceausescu, addressing a meeting on economic affairs in Bucharest Thursday, praised efforts to achieve a compromise that enabled Malta to end an eight-

week filibuster which threatened to deprive the 35-nation Madrid gathering of a consensus needed for decisions. Malta had held out for a separate meeting on Mediterranean security, but eventually accepted a formula that other nations would support Maltese initiatives "when appropriate." Mr. Ceausescu said Romania had advocated patience in dealing with Malta.

Greeks await contents of accord on U.S. bases

ATHENS (R) — Greeks were Friday awaiting the contents of an accord about U.S. bases here which could provoke widespread disillusionment among left-wingers if it fails to live up to the Socialist government's promises. The official news agency ANA reported that Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, elected with a pledge to rid Greece of the bases, had assured the cabinet Thursday that the accord would expire in 1988, paving the way for the bases' withdrawal. But two newspapers published identical versions of what they said was a full text of the accord,

initialled in July and signed Thursday night, which support Washington's claim that withdrawing the bases is seen only as a possibility. One senior Greek official, in a position to know the text said the version published by the satirical weekly Pontiki and the conservative daily Mesimvri, contained "many, many mistakes." But the pro-Moscow Communist Party, through its official organ, said its information was that "this is not a timetable for the bases' withdrawal, because there is no concrete obligation in that direction."

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MIDDLE EAST

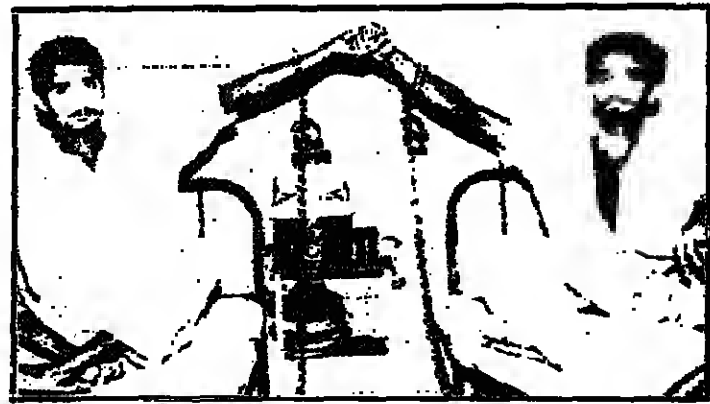
Zia hints at compromise

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's military ruler Mohammad Zia Ul Haq has hinted he might compromise with the opposition and call general elections earlier than the promised March 1985 date.

In the first hint of a shift from his previously adamant line on the issue, President Zia told journalists in the Punjab capital of Lahore Thursday night that elections could be held much earlier.

He did not give a new date in his remarks, reported by the government news agency APP.

Opposition sources said Gen. Zia seemed to be trying to undercut the violent campaign of civil disobedience launched two days after he announced his controversial election plan on Aug. 12, by appearing responsive to demands for a quicker return to civilian rule.



Two anti-government protesters from Sind Province, Pakistan, lie shackled to their hospital beds. They were wounded by police gunfire last Saturday in Muro town when an anti-government mob attacked and killed seven policemen. (A.P. wirephoto)

But a radical departure from the plan he set out so firmly on Aug. 12 could make him appear weak and might even encourage more protests, they said.

In an earlier speech in Jacobabad in Sind Province, Gen. Zia repeated his view that Western democracy was not suitable for

rocks at two banks, opposition sources said. Police had in charge the crowd with batons to disperse it.

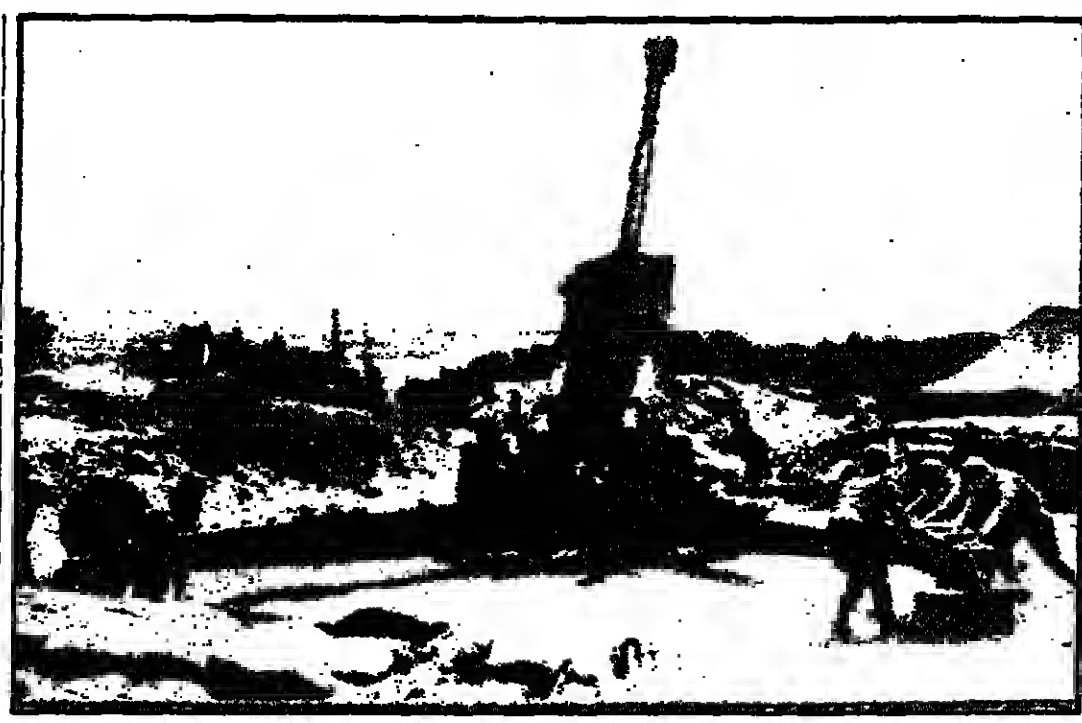
The sources said police seized several hundred copies of an appeal issued by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) two weeks ago in the name of its chairman, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

The appeal, calling on all Pakistanis to protest, was particularly aimed at Punjab.

Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, has been relatively quiet so far and opposition sources concede their civil disobedience movement needs support there to become a real threat to Gen. Zia.

Seven Punjab politicians, all PPP members, returned from self-exile in Europe on Monday to help spread protests in the province. But armed police quickly arrested them at Islamabad Airport and whisked them away to jail.

Mrs. Bhutto is now in France for medical treatment.



AN EYE FOR EYE, TOOTH FOR TOOTH: After coming repeatedly under fire from Druze batteries in the hills south of Beirut, U.S. Marines

returned fire from their 155 mm howitzers as well as from a U.S. warship. The Marine gunners let off six 155mm shells at a hillside position. (A.P. wirephoto)

More Turkish detainees on hunger strike

ANKARA (R) — A defendant in a trial here has said that about 100 prisoners in a jail at Diyarbakir in southeast Turkey have gone on hunger strike to protest against torture and maltreatment, reporters at the court said.

Ismail Iyem, a member of the banned extreme left Kurtulus (liberation) organisation, said the hunger strike had started on Sept. 2. Nearly 2,000 other prisoners at the jail were supporting the hunger strikers but had not joined the fast themselves, he said.

He said the strikers were not making political demands but were demanding an end to the torture and maltreatment, the reporters said.

Relatives of the strikers had submitted a petition to the martial law command asking them to investigate, they added.

Iraq, Turkey agree on security cooperation

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkish Interior Minister Selahattin Cetiner flew home Friday after a five-day visit during which Turkey and Iraq agreed on security cooperation, the official Iraqi news agency INA said.

It said Mr. Cetiner and Iraqi Interior Minister Saadoun Shakir signed joint minutes aimed at further developing friendship and cooperation between the two countries, but gave no details.

Mr. Cetiner held extensive talks with Mr. Shakir, met First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and conveyed a message from Turkish President Kenan Evren to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, which INA said was related to bilateral relations.

Saudis say Iranian pilgrims make trouble

NAIROBI (R) — The Saudi Arabian embassy to Kenya Friday accused Iranians on the annual Haj pilgrimage of carrying weapons and organising political demonstrations in Mecca and Medina.

The embassy, in a statement published in The Kenya Times, warned that Saudi Arabia would take drastic measures against troublemakers on the pilgrimage to the holy shrines that Muslims are expected to make at least once in their lives.

A spokesman for the Saudi consulate here said the document, emanating from the Saudi Interior Ministry and supreme committee for Haj affairs, had also been distributed to other missions abroad for publication. The document was not dated but the last incident it referred to was last July 26.

"We find that Iranian pilgrims hide in their travelling bags hand-weapons with a big quantity of publications of political campaign pro their leader (Ayatollah

Ruhollah) Khomeini.

"In their publications there are glaring attacks against the leaders of the royal kingdom of Saudi Arabia and accusations against its policies," the embassy said.

The pilgrims also "...hold boisterous and noisy demonstrations marching through the streets of Mecca and Medina and through the streets of all sacred places chanting slogans..." it added.

The statement accused Iranian pilgrims of holding meetings in mosques attended by up to several hundred people during which revolutionary statements were read on loudspeakers.

Security guards several times discovered Iranian pilgrims trying to enter the two main mosques with weapons, it added.

The statement warned: "Saudi Arabia will not be lenient or hesitant to take drastic measures against anyone who will try to disturb security or (carry out) acts contrary to the basic teachings of Islam."

Turkish premier begins 2-day visit to Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Bulend Uluysu Friday began a two-day, semi-official visit to Singapore as part of an effort to establish closer economic and political links with South East Asia.

Mr. Uluysu, the first head of the Turkish government to visit the island state, held talks with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew after arriving here with a 13-member delegation, including Commerce Minister Kemal Canturk, from Kuala Lumpur.

Details of the talks were not disclosed. Turkish officials said they were exploratory, designed to lay the groundwork for further high level contacts between the two countries.

"We feel that Singapore could play an important role in Turkey's

efforts to establish closer links with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)," Turkish ambassador Reha Aytaman told Reuters.

Mr. Aytaman said Mr. Uluysu's visit signalled a new Turkish attempt to increase trade with ASEAN, one of the world's fastest growing areas.

The talks between Mr. Uluysu and Mr. Lee were believed to have focused mainly on economic matters, with the Turkish president expressing a desire to increase trade.

Mr. Lee has accepted an invitation to visit Ankara.

Twelve Turkish businessmen, including National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Melawai Yazar, were also travelling with Mr. Uluysu.

Iran mops up Kurdish areas

LONDON (R) — Iranian forces killed or captured more than 140 Kurdish rebels and "liberated" over 30 villages in north-west Iran in one of the biggest mopping-up campaigns since March, Iranian state media reported Friday.

The national news agency Irna said more than 90 "counter-revolutionaries" — a term used to refer to Kurdish guerrillas — were killed or captured after government forces closed in on rebels in areas around Saqqez, Bowkan and Banah near the Iraqi border.

The agency, received in London, said villages "liberated" by government forces served as rebel communications and detention centres. "A great deal of armament and various weaponry" was captured, it added.

Tehran radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said a total of 30 villages were purged of "counter-revolutionaries."

BEIRUT (R) — The guns booming in Lebanon's mountains are the latest shots in 140 years of rivalry between Christians and the Druze, Muslims which many Lebanese fear may engulf the whole country and draw in foreign armies.

The main fighters are rightwing Falangists and leftist Druze, who have clashed since Israel's invasion last June upset the power balance between the two communities.

When Israel pulled out last Sunday, they fell to full-scale civil war with the Druze notching up a quick victory by securing their supply lines with their Syrian backers in the east of the country.

The conflict has grown with the entry of the Lebanese army, which emerged as a fighting force for the first time during battles over the past two weeks against Muslim and leftist gunmen in Beirut.

Supporting the army is a U.S.-led peace force which has repeatedly fired on hostile groups manned by pro-Syrian militias, prompting fears that the Western troops may be drawn into conflict with Soviet-backed Syria.

Waiting in the wings are several restless Muslim and leftist armed factions in Beirut, allies of the Druze and opposed to President Amin Gemayel.

On the other side of the cou-

Government's nightmare

It is the Lebanese government's nightmare that these Syrian-backed irregulars will unite with the Druze and thrust down the hills to Beirut, linking up with poor Muslims in the southern slums of Beirut.

Here are details on the major sectarian groups and armed factions involved:

— The Druze, a breakaway sect of Islam, number about 250,000 in Lebanon, mainly in the pine-clad Shouf Mountains and Aley Hills south and east of Beirut. Once lords of Lebanon, they have been losing to the wealthier and more numerous Maronite Christians since the last century.

The spearhead of their fight for a bigger say in running the Christian-led country is the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), headed by pro-Syrian Walid Jumblatt.

The PSP militia has heavy artillery, rocket launchers and Soviet-made armoured vehicles. It does not reveal the numbers of its fighters.

— The Maronite Christians are

the dominant sect in Lebanon's patchwork of religious communities. They control the rightist militia known as "the Lebanese forces," a well-disciplined private army which has long received arms and training from the Israelis.

They are politically powerful, but military analysts say their position in the Aley area is weak. They have offered to hand over their barracks to the Lebanese army as part of a political settlement if it moves into the Shouf.

— The 33,000-strong Lebanese army, rebuilt over the past year with U.S. help, says it will not move into the war zone until it can do so peacefully.

It has taken up positions on the edges of the war zone and clashed with the Druze, who accuse it of being a tool of Falangist domination. It says its strategy is to seal off Beirut — the only area it controls — from infiltration by Syrian-backed rebels.

Several Muslim and leftist armed groups, until recently underground, bloodied the army during an abortive insurrection in Beirut last week. Among these are the leftist Sunni Muslim Muababun (sentinels), the Shi'ite Muslim Amal (hope) organisation which controls the southern slums, and PSP forces.

The army accuses these groups of trying to take Beirut back to the 1975-76 civil war, when Palestinian-backed Muslim and leftist fighters battled against Christian rightists.

— Palestinian commando groups have been repeatedly accused by Lebanese authorities of fighting beside the Druze.

Lebanese intelligence officers say 1,600 Palestinians and allied fighters have entered areas vacated by Israel from Syrian-held territory further east.

The Palestinians, while proclaiming support for the PSP, deny any involvement and there has been no independent confirmation.

— The Syrian army has an estimated 300,000 men in east and north Lebanon. It entered Lebanon in 1976 to force an end to the civil war and later gained an Arab peace-keeping mandate which has since expired.

Syria refuses to pull out its army while Israeli troops are on Lebanese soil and has branded President Gemayel an Israeli puppet.

— The Israeli army, whose pullback set off the latest crisis, is entrenched behind a defensive line along the Awali River about 40 kilometres south of Beirut. It has warned Syria not to enter the area it vacated and indicated it will strike back if it feels its security threatened.

Afghan guerrillas said besiege 2 vital towns

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Muslim guerrillas are closing in on two strategic towns in eastern Afghanistan, hoping to capture them soon and open large areas of border land to unhindered rebel movement, guerrilla sources said here.

The guerrillas have already surrounded the towns of Khost and Urgun in Paktia Province, bordering on Pakistan, they told Reuters, and the final offensive on Khost should start soon.

They expected Urgun to fall soon afterwards to guerrillas fighting the Babrak Karmal government, installed with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Control of the towns would leave large areas of border land open for guerrillas to transport arms and supplies from bases in Pakistan towards Kabul and other areas in the interior of the country, according to the sources who are close to Peshawar-based guerrilla groups.

The sources said guerrillas had moved to within one or two kilometres of Khost, an Afghan army stronghold, and the garrison there was now all but isolated with only about 200 soldiers and several dozen Soviet advisors left.

The guerrillas narrowed in on Khost in the past few weeks by capturing or disarming a series of militia posts meant to defend the town, also known as Maiun.

Many tribesmen manning the posts went over to the rebels des-

pise a two-year government programme to pay and train them as militia to keep guerrillas from crossing the territory, the sources said.

"That's two years' work wiped out," said one source, who had just met rebel commanders arriving from the Khost area. "They will have to start again from zero."

They said Soviet and Afghan forces in the two towns were being supplied by air because roads were all in rebel hands.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

21:00 Country Music
22:00 Play of the Week
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Classical Concert

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:05 Children's Program
18:25 Invaders from Space
19:20 Programme Review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Local Programme
22:15 Arabic Play
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 M.A.S.H.
21:00 Documentary: Nature Watch
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature film: Night to Remember — Kenneth More, Honor Blackman
23:00 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.00 KHz. SW

07:30 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
07:30 Morning Show
07:30 News Summary
08:00 Original Foods
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:30 Pop Session
08:30 News Summary
08:30 Catch the Words
08:30 News Bulletin
08:30 Instruments
08:30 Centres of Culture
08:30 Concert Hour
08:30 News Summary
08:30 Jordan Weekly
08:30 Special Feature
08:30 Top Twenty
08:30 News
08:30 Die with a Star
08:30 Jibran Jibran
08:30 The Young Sound

BBC WORLD SERVICE

039.720.1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Kings of Jazz

06:30 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:09 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Time 09:00 World News 09:09 News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Fantastic Fiddlers 10:30 Brain of Britain 1983 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Kipling's India 12:15 What's New 12:30 My Music 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian — The Reith Lectures 14:00 Radio Newsteel 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 Network U.K. 15:30 The Hit Machine 16:00 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsteel 17:15 Saturday Special 17:30 World News 17:39 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 20:00 World News 20:09 News About Britain 20:15 Radio News 20:30 Promenade Concerts 21:30 Album Time 21:35 Recording of the Week 21:45 Good Books 22:00 World News 22:09 Commentary 22:15 Man, dragola 22:30 I Call It Genius 23:15 King of Jazz 23:30 Kipling's India 24:00 World News 24:09 From Our Own Correspondent 00:30 News Ideas 00:40 Reith Lectures 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meridian — The Reith Lectures

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260.7205, 11925, 15205

05:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, ScienceDigest, News Summary at 30 minute past the hour, 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Special English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENT

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

FILM

"Violette et Francois" (subtitles in Arabic) at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267
American Centre, Tel. 44371
American Centre Library, 41520
British Council, 36147-8
French Cultural Centre, 37089
Goethe Institute, 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre, 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre, 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre, 39777
Haya Arts Centre, 665195
Russian Youth City, 667181
Y.W.C.A., 41793
Amman Municipal Library, 664251
University of Jordan Library, 643575

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 31760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabat Al Qaf'a (Clafel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays (UJR) a.m. 4:30 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 3012K.
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, 37430.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdal, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shweissan, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:34 Dhuhur
13:47 'Asr
17:48 Maghrib
19:14 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 53240. 53070, 53083, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:55 Cairo (EA)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:05 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:25 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 Dhahran (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
11:30 Larnaka (Cyprus Air)
13:25 Cairo (EA)
14:40 Kuwait (KAC)
15:30 Cairo (EA)
16:25 Copenhagen, Athens (SK)
16:30 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (AF)
16:55 Paris (AF)
17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45 Madrid, Tripoli (RJ)
17:45 Athens (GA)
18:00 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)
18:05 Rome (Alitalia)
18:20 Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Frankfurt (LH)
19:55 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Athens (Olympic)
00:25 Cairo (EA)
00:30 Cairo (RJ)
00:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
07:55 Cairo (EA)
08:30 Athens (Olympic)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:20 Athens (GA)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:40 Paris, London (RJ)
12:35 Larnaka (Cyprus Air)
14:25 Kuwait (KAC)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
18:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat (GA)
19:00 Kuwait (RJ)
19:15 Dhahran (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc 65/6
Dutch guilder 123/2 123/9
Egyptian pound 330/3 334
French franc 45/4 46/1
Iraqi dinar 421/8 428/7
Italian lire (for 100) 23/1 23/3
Japanese yen (for 100) 150/5 151/4
Kuwaiti dinar 126/4 126/9
Lebanese lira 74/3 76/5
Omani rial 106/1 106/5
Qatari riyal 101/1 101/4
Saudi riyal 106/2 106/7
Swedish crown 46/7 47
Swiss franc 169/9 170/9
Syrian lira 63/1 63/7
UAE dirham 101/3 101/4
U.K. sterling pound 550/51 553/8
U.S. dollar 369/ 371
W. German mark 137/9 138/7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair weather with northerly moderate winds. In Agaba, northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Low/high temperature in deg.C

Amman 16/28
Agaba 22/35
Desert 17/33
Jordan Valley 19/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Agaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193. 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75154
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22900-3
Police rescue 192. 21111. 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 56390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 53333

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 81381-32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Aksh Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Malina, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shweissan 66471-4
Shweissan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727-9
The Islamic, Abdal 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdal 2301 200
Italian, Al-Muhajirun 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 71020

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.
Apple (local) 450/400
Apple (local) 400/300
Banana 270/220
Banana (Mukhammar) 230/200
Beans 330/280
Cabbage 150/120
Cauliflower (white) 220/200
Corn 120/100
Cucumber (large) 200/150
Cucumber (small) 350/300
Eggplant (large) 80/50
Eggplant (small) 160/120
Figs 350/300
P

HOME NEWS

School term begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — According to Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal, 835,861 students will attend the 2616 schools all over Jordan on the first day of Saturday the 1983-1984 scholastic year. These will include 83,061 children who will go to school for the first time.

In a statement on the occasion, Dr. Tal said that we cannot provide for our basic needs effectively without a well-established and efficient educational system that is capable of rearing a conscientious generation fully aware of their responsibilities and ready to build a decent future for the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation.

In his statement, Dr. Tal pointed out that the academic year opening today marks the beginning of the fourth in the eighties, which the ministry has planned to

be "the decade of developing the quality of education in Jordan".

The incorporation of computer studies in the Jordanian schools curriculum for the first time this year is one aspect of the drive towards educational modernisation embarked upon by the ministry. Dr. Tal elaborated. Education has undergone a re-orientation process to link it with the social and economic needs in Jordan, and put it in the service of development and modernisation, the statement said.

Self-development has been given priority with educational planning as it has become imperative to develop our own potential instead of relying on outside aid, the minister pointed out in his statement.

Seminar closes

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day seminar on the production, consumption and marketing of vegetable oil in the Arab World concluded here Thursday.

The final statement issued by the participants called on Arab governments to pay more attention to increasing the agricultural production of oil seeds and fruits. The seminar urged the adoption of the scientific research and technology needed to promote higher agricultural standards in the rural areas of the Arab region.

Education centres to be established

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan's Board of Trustees has decided to establish a centre for phonetic studies and a health training centre.

The phonetic studies centre will be responsible for studying the sound system of Arabic and ways of helping those people with speech defects. The second centre will provide training services for staff teaching medicine and nursing at the University of Jordan, nursing colleges and para medical science institutes.

Badran visits tax office

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday visited the Income Tax Department, where he was received by Minister of Finance Salem Masa'adeh and department Director-General Abdullah Nsour.

Mr. Badran first inspected the department's work and later gave his instructions on issues raised during the meeting he held with the heads of sections in the department.

Mr. Badran said the achievements made by the department regarding efficiency and

reorganisation are immense, and the employees who implemented the new income tax law have been a major factor in these achievements. A good citizen always concerns himself with paying income dues voluntarily, and the attitude towards this issue is a criterion of the citizen's social contribution and conscientiousness.

Mr. Badran said. The prime minister concentrated on the significance of media campaigns in educating people on their duty to pay taxes and act responsibly within the community.

Geology surveys requested

AMMAN (Petra) — The participants in the Second Arab Seminar on Underground Storage, which was concluded Friday at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan, called on the Arab World to carry out detailed surface and under ground geological

surveys to identify areas that are suitable for underground storage with the aim of serving Arab strategic interests.

In their recommendations, participants also urged Arab academic institutions to concentrate on the teaching of geology.

CAR FOR SALE

An American citizen wishes to sell new Datsun 240L, 1983 model, 2,000 km., four doors, shift gear, wina and silver colour, equipped with: A/C, FM radio cassette, power steering, windows, roof opening, central lock, voice warning system and deluxe furnishing.

Price JD 2,800 not negotiable excluding customs duties.

For more information please call Tel: 660860, Mr. Aladdin from 8-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

An independent villa consisting of three bedrooms, living room, salon, dining room and three bathrooms; with telephone and central heating.

Location: Abdoun area.
If interested call tel: 816760

THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN

will hold their first meeting for the 1983-84 year on MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER from 5-7 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, Kaftan Fashion Show.

All Americans and wives of Americans are invited to attend. Members will be able to renew their memberships.

ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) I, Mr. Baby Chacko, holder of Indian passport No. M 214984 issued at Ernakulam on 24.11.1977 hereby announce that my former name has been changed to my new name Mr. James Joseph.

(2) I, Miss Marykutty Thomas, holder of Indian passport No. M 299033 issued at Ernakulam on 25-1-1978 hereby announce that my maiden name has been changed to my married name Mrs. Marykutty James.

Amman 9-9-83

FOR RENT FURNISHED APARTMENT

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3-bedroom - one - floor - apt. in 3 floor building. Independent telephone, central heating, water and electricity.

Only families need inquire, rent JD 5,000.-p.a Payable in advance.

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WANTED HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE AND SEWERAGE ENGINEERS

Wanted engineers with previous experience in design or supervision or construction of highways or bridges or sewerage projects to design or/and supervise construction in Jordan. Interested engineers please contact:

Eng. Hayel Musharbash
Phone: 841758, Amman - Jordan

Amman Marriott Hotel عمان مارriott

Come and Experience September's "TABLE D'HÔTE" Dinner at the Al Walima Gourmet Restaurant

MENU DE DEGUSTATION

FOUR COURSES DINNER 9.900 J.D.

TARAMASALATA

A greek specialty of smoked fish roe, garlic and lemon juice.

LA CRÊPE D'ASPERGES AU GRATIN

A savoury pancake filled with asparagus tips covered with a cheese sauce and gratinated.

VITELO TORNADO

Thin slices of cold roast veal with tuna fish flavoured with mayonnaise

L'ASSIETTE GOURMET

A selection of Hors d'oeuvres.

LADY CARSON

Clear Turtle soup topped with whipped cream, flavoured with curry.

SORBET AU CITRON

Lemon Sorbet

LES FILETS MIGNON DE BOEUF A LA PETITE DUC

Medallions of fillet of U.S. beef on Pate croûtons with asparagus tips and medaile Sauce.

L'ESCALOPE DE VEAU FLAMBE AU MARSALA

Escalope of Dutch Veal prepared table side finished in cream flavoured Marsala.

LES ROSETTES D'AGNEAU SAUCE MENTHE

Boned loin of English lamb grilled and served with mint sauce.

L'ASSIETTE DE POISSONS "MATELOT"

Sautéed in butter and lemon juice, fishermen's choice of Cod, Haddock, sea Scallops and Shrimps.

LE COQ AU VIN A LA BOURGUIGNONNE

From French origin of Burgundy, the classical dish of chicken cooked in red wine with bacon, onions and mushrooms.

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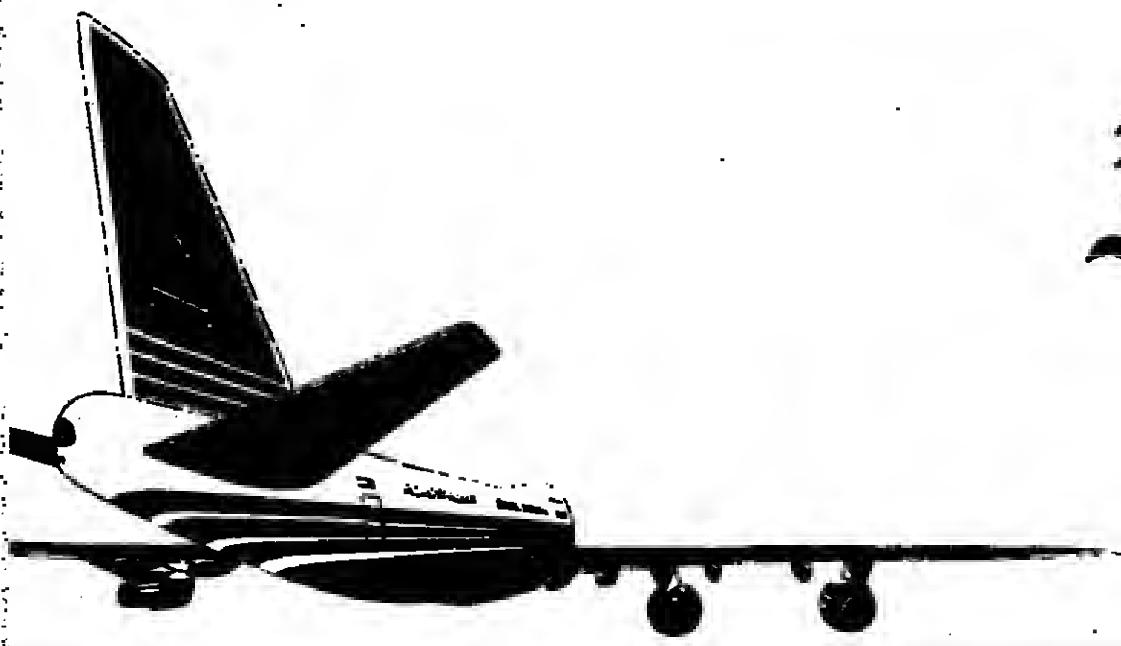
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New York Daily

WITH ALIA'S BOEING 747

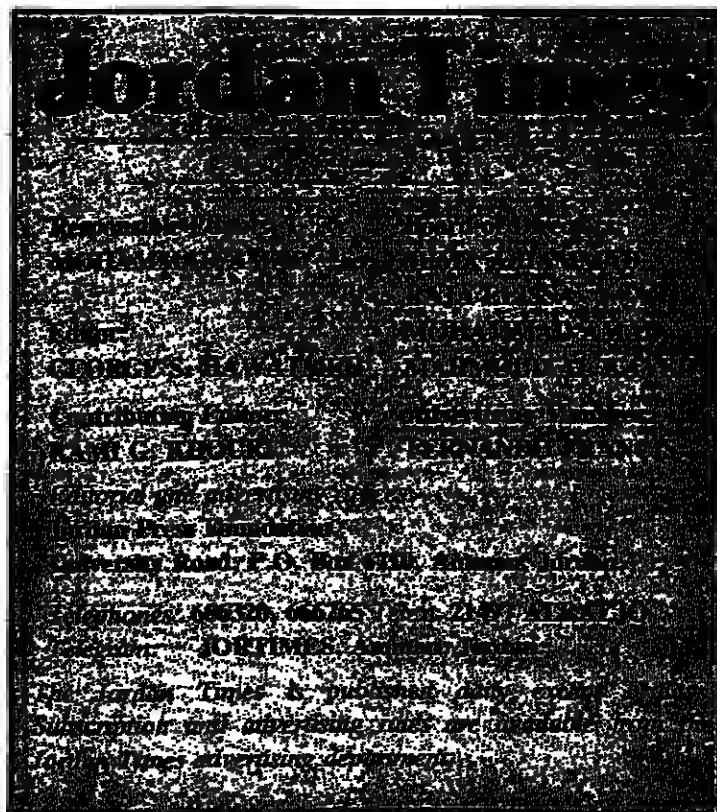
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Alia



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: More sinister motives

THE AMERICAN and French involvement in the Lebanese civil war seems to be escalating. Following the operation carried out by French fighter-bombers from the Aircraft Carrier Foch, the U.S. navy did not wait long to launch a similar bombing attack. Needless to say, these two operations are evidently out of step with the initial brief of the multi-national force in Lebanon. It can be said that the French and American operations aimed to defend the troops of the two countries operating in Lebanon, who have been bombed recently and some killed. But this argument hardly stands up due to the following reasons.

— Aerial and naval operations can by no means guarantee the safety of multi-national troop members, but on the contrary, these operations escalate armed hostilities in Lebanon — and risk greater casualties among its forces.

— The French and American military operations can simply open the way for further foreign interference, which could turn Lebanon a platform for superpower confrontation.

— The outcome of the French-American involvement blatantly demonstrates that both are aligned to the Falangist side, which has nothing to do with Lebanese legitimacy as the Falangists are in no way representatives of the people there in the same sense that the Druze Socialists are not.

Hence, we wonder if the French and American presence in Lebanon has anything to do with the present conflict as much as it is related to America's strategic needs and France's old colonial dreams in the region. These obviously have nothing to do with Lebanese sovereignty or territorial integrity.

Al Dustour: Lebanon enters crucial phase

THURSDAY'S SHELLING of Lebanese Socialist positions by U.S. warships is not the only material indicator of American military involvement in the Lebanese civil war. Such an involvement was physically present when American warplanes started flying over Socialist positions in the Shouf mountains, and ever since the U.S. administration started reinforcing its troops with 2,000 extra marines.

Notwithstanding reports of concern among senior officials of the Reagan administration over the threats which endanger the lives of U.S. Marines in Lebanon, which has led to calls for withdrawing them, there have been sanctimonious calls to send more and more American warships to reinforce the present ones. If reports by the New York Times of recent summons by the Lebanese government to the U.S. administration to involve more multi-national troops in the Lebanese conflict, this should certainly be interpreted as a call for such forces to make an assault on the mountains rather than being satisfied with long-distance shelling.

The last six days' military and political developments, the most dangerous of which has been the stark partisan military involvement of the multi-national forces in support of one of the Lebanese factions, show that the Lebanese civil war has entered its most crucial stage, and that Lebanon is set to become another Vietnam, involvement in which will not be confined to the Americans alone.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Falangists out of step

THE CURRENT war in Lebanon will end with the whole nation being defeated and weakened for years to come. It seems that all the warring factions understand this except the Falangists who insist on extending their domination over all other parties and the whole of Lebanon. We understand that the Lebanese army is trying to spread its authority over all Lebanese territory, but we cannot understand why the Falangists are pursuing their ambitious aims through further destruction and massacres. Their behaviour was mainly responsible for the latest outburst of fighting which has dragged in the multi-national forces. Why do the Falangists continue to refuse to permit their country to be ruled by a coalition of the different political parties where all communities will be represented and their rights respected?

The civil war in Lebanon will certainly stop if the Falangists renounce their expansionist aims and their evil desires. Lebanon cannot be ruled by hatred or force of arms but with peace and accord. The Lebanese army should put an end to the Falangist atrocities if it is really sincere in preserving the country's peace and security.

Al Dustour: Mediation should resume

SAUDI ARABIA Wednesday announced it was ending its mediation efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis. The announcement has thus opened the door wide open for a full-scale civil war in Lebanon and the likelihood of foreign intervention in the country. Needless to say certain element in Lebanon would welcome foreign intervention in which they see a way to salvage their future and a way of subduing their opponents. In fact, they ought to have learnt a lesson from Israel's intervention and the consequences of its invasion of Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shaab: Results of Israel's work

THE WAR of attrition in Lebanon can't be regarded as a victory for one party over any other. Victory cannot be measured by the number of people killed or villages taken or destroyed. Not one of the warring factions can perpetuate its hegemony and domination over large areas of land. Syria, which has had a military presence in Lebanon for the past eight years, had to withdraw under pressure. The same thing happened to Israel, to the Falangists and it will not be long before it applies to the Druze.

The Lebanese situation is subject to any eventuality and no party can be the victor. Armed conflict cannot solve Lebanon's crisis and the warring factions both Druze and Falangists must eventually come to terms with this fact if they want a future characterised by peace. The two sides were mobilised whilst under Israeli occupation. But neither party has fired on the Israeli invaders, the real enemy of Lebanon and all Arabs. Israel prepared the ground for the current fighting so as to undermine any basis for peace and stability in Lebanon. We call for the establishment of a strong central government in Beirut that will group together all parties to the conflict so as to safeguard the rights of all communities and ensure a strong and sovereign, united country.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Arab civilisation contributed a lot

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — As I write these columns, I have often wished that my Arabic consisted of more than a few scraps, words here and there, and an occasional phrase that I can make out. I know it is the tongue of one of the world's greatest civilisations, like Chinese for the East of Asia. Sanskrit for the South (which I am totally ignorant of). Greek and Latin for the ancient Western world (which I know in scraps too but as a Westerner have acquired their spirit along with Western civilisation).

I remember many years ago when travelling in Afghanistan that I learned my first words of Arabic, and with that acquired my first sense of Arab civilisation. When visiting the ancient city of Balkh, I was told by local people that it was frequently called: Umm Ul-Bilad, or mother of cities. I asked why, and they responded that it was the oldest city in the world.

Who knows but that they may have been right! That part of the world was the site of very ancient cities which modern archaeology has discovered. But then equally or more ancient were Mesopotamia and Egypt. And lately archaeologists have discovered very ancient remains in northern Thailand. It does not matter... and in any case can never be known... which mother of what ancient cities was the oldest!

It must have been some early Arab traveller who gave Balkh this name. But the name was given at a time when the Arab empires were at the height of their glory, and that glory was exemplified by great cities: Mecca, Medina, Damascus, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Cordoba, Cairo or its predecessor Al Fustat. Arab civilisation, commerce, science, philosophy, literature and the arts grew up in great cities. It was an

urban civilisation, as Ibn Khaldun pointed out in his *Muqaddima*. And that civilisation contributed to the rise of other cities and other civilisations. Thus the brilliant urban civilisation of southern France in the latter centuries of the first Christian millennium was partly spurred on by the Arab cities. Distant Canton in China had some 100,000 Arab and Persian inhabitants in the 8th and 9th centuries. Even today it has the oldest existing mosque in China.

While admiring the ruins of Balkh, I chanced to talk to a man with a vast beard in tea house. As usual in Afghanistan, I asked him his tribe or qum in the Farsi tongue. He answered: Arab. I was astonished. How could there be Arabs some 1500 to 2000 kilometres from the Arab World. Was he a visitor? No, he said. His ancestors had been there since the times of the Prophet.

He was a Quraishi. Then he proceeded to speak Arabic to me, of which I understood nothing, but knew enough to judge that it was indeed Arabic.

Later I found, on going through libraries in the U.S., that indeed there were several thousands of Arabs in Afghanistan and the adjacent territory of Soviet Central Asia. Russian scholars had, in fact, recorded the language and found it to be a very ancient Arabic. The Arabs I saw were all nomads and in fact lived in the typical round tents of their fellow Turkish nomads. They were not people of the cities but of the vast plains, just as their ancestors must have been Bedouins.

Like all nomads, these Arabs were extremely friendly. They had none of the distrust that I often felt from the city-dwellers of the region. They had no idea what I was doing in so remote a part of the world

from my own country, but never asked questions. Some of the city people, though, probably thought I was a CIA agent or even a Russian spy!

Like Ibn Khaldun, I have been reflecting on the meaning of those two early contacts of mine with Arabs and Arab civilisation. And I have tried to consider its significance in broader human terms. Cities thousands of years ago were sources of wealth and are so now. Cities create money, and money is a kind of magnetism that takes products and gives them a dynamism. In a world where there is a lot of money, virtually everything gets so magnetised.

Yet money does, in fact, corrode human ties. It makes people selfish, greedy, and especially enormously self-concerned. Yet my sense of nomads was that they were some of the least self-concerned people I had ever

met. But they were poor, very poor in fact. Somehow their poverty and humanity went hand in hand, whereas for city people it was greater wealth coupled with other qualities like intelligence, shrewdness, ambition and so on, qualities which I too admire.

A final irony in these reflections. Balkh today is mostly a ruin. So are most of the other cities of ancient Central Asia. Our ancient Western cities all were ruined before they revived in the Renaissance. The great cities of Arab civilisation all declined. China has ancient cities, but few of her modern cities are direct descendants of the ancient ones. Yet the bearded Arab nomads I met were survivors, survivors for a thousand years or more. I have wondered: Why is it not possible for such powerful human ties to be grafted on the exciting and productive life of cities?

TASS blames the Americans for S. Korean airliner incident

FOLLOWING is a partial text of Sunday's TASS statement, translated from Russian:

"Washington is feverishly covering up traces of the provocation staged against the Soviet Union with the utilisation of the South Korean plane, which has flown out of the United States and intruded into the Soviet Union's air space.

The White House and the Department of State are mounting a world-wide, rabid, anti-Soviet campaign. The tone is set by the U.S. president. In his statements permeated with frenzied hatred and malice for the Soviet State, for Socialism, using as a cover-up bombastic phrases about 'humanism' and 'noble feelings', the head of the White House is trying to convince public opinion that the USSR allegedly is guilty of loss of life.

Issuing forth torrents of vicious abuses, representatives of the U.S. administration want to avoid answering clear questions: Why did the plane happen to find itself in the air space of the Soviet Union, deviating by 500 kilometres from the existing international route? Why did the authorities of the U.S. and Japan, whose air traffic controlling services control flights of planes on this route, knowing that the plane had remained for a long time in Soviet air space, had not taken appropriate measures to put an end to this flagrant violation of sovereignty of the Soviet Union?

Let us quote a statement on this score, which was made on French television by General Galois, a specialist of France in strategic issues. He declared: "The Soviet

armed forces have two zones which may be considered as being top secret: the area of Murmansk in the Kola peninsula and the zone of the Sea of Okhotsk, where the Kamchatka peninsula and the island of Sakhalin are situated. There are, the general said, "a considerable part of the Soviet navy concentrated and intercontinental ballistic missile testing facilities located there." General Galois recalled that several years ago the Soviet air force in the area of the Kola peninsula compelled what also was a South Korean plane to land.

U.S. officials are striving to prove that the latest plane "wandered off its flight path," that it "lost communication contact," etc. What "loss of communication contact" can it be, if the U.S. authorities admitted that they had been following the flight throughout its duration?

The flimsiness of the attempts of the White House to justify the "appearance of the South Korean plane in the air space of the Soviet Union by some technical malfunction" is also made obvious by statements of the former head of the joint chiefs of staff to the Japanese armed forces, at present the military observer of the newspaper Mainichi Shimbun, G. Takeda.

In this connection, it is proper to ask: What the thoroughly hypocritical "sorrow" demonstrated by the White House is based on? Or does Mr. President believe that the very concept of national sovereignty no longer exists and one may intrude with impunity into the air space of independent states? Or is he viewing

the whole world now as a "zone of U.S. vital interests?"

The Western press reported also that the crews of the South Korean liners on this route are made up solely of air force pilots.

The Australian newspaper, Sydney Morning Herald, pointed out, in its turn, that the South Korean plane could have been taken in the Soviet Union for a U.S. spy plane since on radars it looked like an intelligence plane of the U.S. air force, and that it could also well be mistaken for a U.S. E4B bomber.

The U.S. president asks: How one can conduct negotiations with a state which is capable of such actions?

This phrase in itself explains a great deal. Why so? Because the U.S. administration is going out of its way to disrupt the process of normalisation of the situation in the world, to evade solving problems facing the world which are vital to the interests of nations.

The head of the White House is shedding hypocritical tears over what has happened! More than once the world has witnessed the situation when Washington officials speak of "humaneness," while at the same time U.S. Marines, acting in concert with Israeli aggressors, commit mass killings in Lebanon, when under the guidance of American instructors: bandits perpetrate atrocities in sovereign Nicaragua and make short work of Salvadoran patriots. The world knows the worth of this "sorrow" and "concern for humaneness." Some time ago it brought about the killing of several million people in Indochina.

Punjab Sikhs press for autonomy

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

NEW DELHI — A year after militant Sikhs began a campaign for greater autonomy in India's Punjab state the movement has reached a crossroads.

Political sources said its future course was likely to be decided at a meeting this weekend which would consider whether protests like a symbolic occupation of Punjab government offices last Monday were effective enough.

The two-day meeting, had been organised by hardline Sikhs over the heads of campaign leaders and its discussion of the past 12 months' activities could split the movement, the sources said.

Until now moderates from the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, have run the campaign to wrest religious and political concessions from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which also rules the north Indian state.

The meeting, called by hardline religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a preacher of Sikh fundamentalism who wears a pistol on his hip, will consider how much is gained by the moderates' tactics and by actions like the one on Monday.

During the protest thousands of Sikhs, many waving swords, stormed past police into government offices in several cities smashing furniture, windows and destroying files as part of a one-day strike throughout the Punjab, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

The Times of India newspaper judged the occupations and the whole campaign as "just another interlude in the year-long confrontation", and headline Sikhs complained that although such protests were dramatic, they achieve little.

Over the past year, Sikhs also blocked railways and roads, lea-

ding to clashes in which at least 21 people died. Some political sources believe if hardliners take over the movement, violence could increase.

The next phase of the moderates' plan is to force Punjab's parliamentarians to either sign a memorandum backing Sikh demands or resign.

Mrs. Gandhi has conceded most Sikh religious demands, such as allowing Sikhs to carry ritual daggers on domestic airliners, and set up a commission to look at greater state autonomy.

The Akali Dal leader Harchand Singh Longowal, considered a

moderate and who earlier welcomed the commission, now rejects further dialogue and wants all Sikh demands met.

Political sources said Mr. Longowal had been pushed into an uncompromising attitude in a bid to retrieve ground lost to the radicals, who argue that Mrs. Gandhi has worn down and outmanoeuvred the movement by a war of attrition.

"The Akalis will realise that their campaign will only alienate the people and further erode their support," Punjab's inspector-general of police, Pritam Singh Bhinder, told Reuters.



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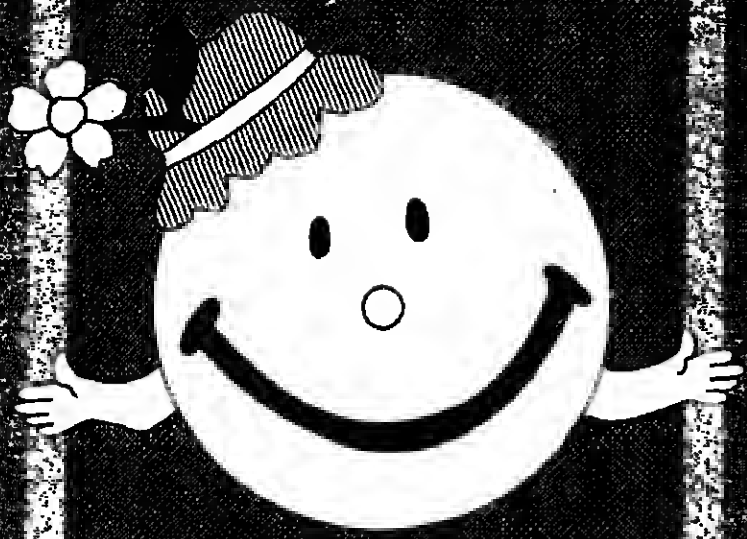


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SPORTS

Arias upsets Noah in U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Nineteen-year-old Jimmy Arias of the U.S., a 5-foot 9-inch bundle of explosive power, Thursday night upset fourth-seeded Yannick Noah of France, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, to reach the semi-finals of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.

The ninth-seeded Arias, the youngest player to reach the semi-finals in the 16-year-old history of the tournament, will next meet second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who beat Mats Wilander of Sweden earlier on Thursday, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6.

Arias, who is from Grand Island, New York, electrified a capacity crowd of more than 20,000 at the U.S. National Tennis Centre with his devastating groundstroke assault against the 6-foot 4-inch Noah.

Cool and composed throughout, Arias won the climactic fifth set when he broke Noah's service in the 12th and final game at 15.

That turned out to be the only service break of the exciting, brilliantly played fifth set.

Noah, the French Open champion, who had beaten Arias in their only previous meeting a year ago, fell behind, 15-30, in the 12th game when he netted a backhand, double-faulted and drove a fore-

ehand volley long.

At double-breakpoint, the Frenchman hammered in a hard, flat first service. Taking it on the rise with his lethal forehand, Arias drilled a crosscourt service-return winner past Noah for the match.

Though he has won three tournaments this year, including the Italian Open and the U.S. clay court title, Arias was a heavy underdog to Noah, since the Frenchman is believed to possess the more solid all-round game.

At that, Noah played brilliantly. But in the end, Arias' awesome forehand — one of the hardest on the men's circuit — along with his own strong baseline play and accurate serving proved more than Noah could handle.

Defending champion Jimmy Connors, who beat Lendl in last year's final, will face fellow-American Bill Scanlon, who produced the shock of the event by ousting top-seeded John McEnroe in the fourth round, in the other semi-final. Both won their quarter-final contests on Wednesday.

Lendl, 23, had lost two of his last three matches to the 19-year-old Wilander and three out of five overall. Two of Wilander's wins were on clay, but the last one, in late August, was a 6-0, 6-3 victory on a similar asphalt surface in Cincinnati.

Wilander, the 1982 French Open Champion, followed up that victory with a 6-4, 6-4 win over McEnroe in the final.

All eight of his previous tournament victories had been on clay. But by capturing the title in Cincinnati, Wilander proved conclusively he was capable of winning on a hard, fast surface.

But on Thursday Lendl played far better than he did in Cincinnati, atoning for that defeat with a solid and impressive demonstration of his aggressive game. Lendl, the only men's player who has not lost a set in this tournament, had more angle and greater depth on his punishing groundstrokes, volleyed more effectively and was far more over-thrower on serve.

Lendl scored with 27 placement winners, 20 of them with his vaunted forehand, as against 13 winners by Wilander. And he drilled in 11 aces, including three in the eighth game of the second set. Wilander had just four.

As he must to win on a fast surface, Wilander attacks the net more often now and he did so frequently on Thursday. But his volley, still the weakest part of his game, often lacked depth and angle, enabling Lendl to run it down and reply with winners.

Piquet fastest in practice for Italian race

MONZA, Italy (R) — Former World Champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil set the pace in the first official practice for Sunday's Formula One Grand Prix motor race here on Friday.

The 1981 title-holder, joint third in this season's championship battle, and Brabham team-mate Riccardo Patrese of Italy stole the limelight from the strongly-favoured Ferrari pair, Rene Arnoux and Patrick Tambay.

The two Frenchmen had to be content with third and fourth fastest times respectively, while compatriot and championship leader Alain Prost could manage only seventh place in his Renault.

Driving under an overcast sky, Piquet piloted his BMW-powered Brabham round the Monza track,

one of the world's fastest, in one minute 30.20 seconds.

The Brazilian will be boosted by Friday's performance after his disappointment in last month's Dutch Grand Prix when he and Prost were forced to retire after their cars collided.

Patrese made it an overwhelmingly successful day for the Brabham team, finishing barely 0.05 seconds behind the Brazilian and more than half a second ahead of Arnoux's Ferrari.

Prost, who needs a good result on Sunday to remain championship leader, has ground to make up in Saturday's final practice session if he wants a commanding position on the starting grid.

Prost, with 51 points, is eight ahead of Arnoux, who was cat-

apulted back into the running after his Dutch victory, while Tambay and Piquet share third position on 37.

An Arnoux victory here would earn him nine points and, with only two races to go after Monza, would put him at the head of the standings if Prost failed to finish in the first six.

Prost finished just behind team-mate Eddie Cheever of the U.S., and Renault technicians complained their cars were not revving properly.

"We are also in trouble with the handling on both Alain's cars. He says that he has very little grip and is getting wheel spin badly coming out of the corners," said Renault team manager Jean Sage.

Amman Little League Results for games on Sept. 9

Totals	
Blue team 1	Red team 11
Juniors	
Royal Falcons 11	Telcom 3
Intercontinental Hotel 11	International Traders 8
Ericsson 1	Foxboro 11
Abaha 11	American Express 11
Mids	
Jordan Express 11	Volvo 3
Astra 1	Grindlays Bank 11
ALICO 11	Arab Wings 11
AIK 3	Al Ahlyah 2
Seniors	
Holiday Inn 1	Marriott Hotel 2
Chase Manhattan 0	Cairo-Amman Bank 3

West Ham wary of over confidence

LONDON (R) — English first division soccer leaders West Ham are fully aware that early season form can often fade only to later deceive.

In September 1981 West Ham topped the League table, only to slump to an undistinguished ninth place in the final standings.

And last year Manchester City and Swansea were among the four pacemakers in September, but 38 games later occupied two of the three relegation spots.

"It's a good feeling to have the points," West Ham manager John Lyall said after Tuesday's 3-1 win over Leicester, which maintained

his team's 100 per cent winning record.

"But we all know there is a long season still to play."

West Ham meet Coventry at home on Saturday and the in-form Midlands Club, who have an impressive eight points from four games, should be a good test for the London side.

By contrast with West Ham's flying start to the season Tottenham Hotspur have struggled and they will be looking for a maximum three points from their away match with Leicester.

Nicholas hardly got a kick in Tuesday's 3-2 home loss to Man-

chester United, fuelling speculation that he might have joined the wrong club.

Arsenal's commendable new attacking policy may now need adjustments and certainly they need quality players in midfield to give Nicholas the service he needs to make an impact on the English game.

In other first-division clashes Southampton, who fully earned their draw at Liverpool, look capable of maintaining their sound start with at least a point from their visit to Sunderland while Watford should register their first win from the visit of Notts County.

Iraq wins President's Soccer Cup

DHAKA (R) — Iraq police won the President's Gold Cup soccer tournament by beating Malaysia 2-1 (halftime 1-1) in the final here on Friday.

The Iraqi side beat England's Widdesley Wanderers in a penalty shoot-out in Thursday's semifinals.

Malaysia had earlier beaten South Korea 3-2 in the other semifinal. Ten teams took part in the tournament, including entries from Nepal, Thailand and India.

An estimated crowd of 50,000 watched the match. Iraq took the lead in the 18th minute when the ball slipped out of Malaysian goalkeeper Krishnamurthi's grasp and gave Iraqi right-winger Nasir Jassem the chance to open the scoring.

The Malaysians never seemed to recover from the shock and their concerted attacks faltered every time.

The second Iraqi goal came 25 minutes into the second half when centre-forward Adnan Khatom raced into the goalmouth and beat goalkeeper Krishnamurthi.

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WORLD

Nicaragua on full alert after daring raid by rebel aircraft

MANAGUA (R) — Leftist Nicaragua has put its air defences on maximum alert after anti-government rebels sent two aircraft to bomb Managua for the first time since the country's civil war ended in 1979.

"Today more than ever we must be on alert against counter-revolutionary attacks," Defence Minister Humberto Ortega told journalists Thursday night. He added that anti-aircraft units throughout the country and air force headquarters were ready to go into action.

A rebel twin-engine propeller plane bombed Managua's air force base Thursday before it was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed in a ball of flames against the control tower of the adjacent international airport.

At the same time, a second insurgent plane attacked the residential district of La Fontana and dropped a bomb near the home of Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto.

The government said several people were wounded in the raid on the airbase but no deaths were reported apart from the two pilots of the assault plane. The second aircraft escaped.

Panama City meeting

In Panama City, where nine

Latin American ministers are locked in negotiations to find a peace formula for Central America, Mr. d'Escoto denounced the surprise attack as "condemnable in every respect" and said President Reagan was to blame.

He said the U.S. was "financing, training, directing this cowardly war that is being waged against our people."

Responsibility for the raid was claimed in neighbouring Costa Rica by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), an organisation under the military command of former Nicaraguan Deputy Defence Minister Eden Pastora.

The foreign ministry in Managua accused the U.S. of supplying the bombs and planes used in the attack and said it had issued an

energetic protest to Washington.

The two dead pilots were identified as Sebastian Muller and Agustin Roman. The ministry said light planes found in the wreckage showed that it had taken off from a small airfield near the Costa Rican capital of San Jose.

The Nicaraguans said Muller was a deserter from the air force. Roman, a former senior pilot of the national airline Aeronica, defected last year and appeared at a press conference in Miami where he said he had flown Nicaraguan leaders during and after the civil war.

Roman was introduced at the press conference by the U.S.-backed right-wing Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the main insurgent force.

Weinberger urges united military set-up in C. America

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has urged tighter military cooperation among conservative states in Central America to fight left-wing insurgents.

Mr. Weinberger made the call at the end of a three-nation tour of Central America, the first ever by a U.S. defence secretary, before returning home to Washington.

As an example of how he visualised closer military cooperation, Mr. Weinberger cited a controversial new training centre on the Atlantic coast of Honduras where U.S. troops are training men of El Salvador's army.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for the first Salvadoran battalion trained at the centre, at Puerto Castillo, Mr. Weinberger said: "This military training centre, which is a key element in our efforts to restore security and stability in Central America, is available to all nations in the region."

The defence secretary was accompanied by Salvadoran Defence Minister Eugenio Carlos Vides Casanova and Honduran army chief Gustavo Alvarez.

Gen. Alvarez called for the reactivation of the dormant Central American Defence Council (CONDECA) to unite Central American armies in the fight against what he called a Marxist-Leninist minority.

Gen. Alvarez later told Reuters that talks aimed at reviving the security organisation had already begun and the results would be evident within months.

2 shot dead in Chilean protests

SANTIAGO (R) — Two people were shot dead as police clashed with demonstrators in Chile's fifth monthly day of protest against military rule Thursday, three days before President Augusto Pinochet celebrates 11 years in power.

Hospital sources said a 21-year-old man died of a bullet wound in the heart in Santiago's shanty town of La Victoria. Officials said a woman passer-by was shot dead in Valparaiso when a policeman struggled with a man handing out leaflets.

The independent radio station Cooperativa said 11 other people suffered bullet wounds. Police said those shot were fired at from an unmarked car, but residents of La Victoria said they were fired by police.

Demonstrations turned violent in the city centre where students throwing stones and riot police using tear gas and water cannon fought running battles throughout the day.

Police said 350 people were arrested and all but six were later released. Radio Cooperativa said 600 were arrested.

At least 24 people were shot dead in last month's protest as police enforced a curfew, and the death toll of five months of open opposition to military rule has now reached 34.

Interior Minister Sergio Jarpa, who has taken small steps towards political relaxation since his appointment last month, said he was satisfied that violence had been at a lesser scale than in earlier protests.

"I think we are heading towards a more normal situation in which a genuine democratic dialogue is possible," he said.

But former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, leader of the five-party democratic alliance organising the protest, called police repression of demonstrations excessive and said: "It is impossible to maintain a dialogue if you hit your partners."

"We were beaten, humiliated and arrested," he said.

Witnesses said Mr. Valdes was soaked by water cannon and a tear gas canister went off at his feet as riot police broke up a sit-in on a central square.

Angry students reacted by pelting police with stones, forcing them at a time to retreat and call in reinforcements. "This is the first battle we win in 11 years of military rule," a student told reporters.

Police later cleared the square with repeated baton charges and chased students with tear gas through the city centre for several hours.

At one point, several hundred students took refuge in the law courts and asked for the protection of the supreme court president. They left after police withdrew.

Hospital sources said several demonstrators were beaten up, hit by tear gas canisters and bitten by police dogs.

In a series of ceremonies leading to the 11th anniversary of his rule, Gen. Pinochet was given the title of "illustrious son of Santiago" and received the keys of the city from its mayor.

As night fell, running battles continued on the main avenue, a few blocks from the presidential palace and commuters clutched handkerchiefs to their noses.

Residents in many areas banged pots in a traditional Chilean form of anti-government protest, and in some middle-class areas supporters of the government tried to drown the deafening noise by playing records of military music.

In the poor neighbourhoods, demonstrators set up barricades of stones, bonfires and burning tyres. Correspondents who drove around the shanty towns were received with victory signs.

At one barricade they were surrounded by youngsters carrying a portrait of the late Marxist President Salvador Allende. At another, their car was stoned.

Head of Aquino probe quits briefly

MANILA (R) — Supreme Court Chief Justice Enrique Fernando has temporarily stepped down as chairman of a special judicial panel probing the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, a panel spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman for the five-member commission, set up by President Ferdinand Marcos to investigate the Aug. 21 assassination, said Justice Fernando would not attend hearings for

about 11 days pending the completion of his reply to challenges to his legality and to Justice Fernando's appointment as chairman.

The supreme court Thursday said it would take together two applications from lawyers challenging Justice Fernando's role and one questioning the legal basis of the inquiry. It ordered the panel to reply within 10 days.

Meanwhile, President Marcos said he would stand for reelection in 1987 if his health allowed it and if his ruling party needed him, but that he would prefer not to.

In a press interview, the Philippines leader also ruled out inviting the international commission of jurists to investigate the assassination of Sen. Aquino, saying it was purely an internal affair.

Mr. Marcos, who has ruled for

18 years, eight of them under martial law, said leaders of his ruling New Society Movement (KBL) were insisting that he should stand again to preserve party unity.

"I have not said anything about it but I told everybody to stop quarrelling as to who will be the candidate, who will be the first priority," he said. "If I am healthy and the party needs me, then I will run in 1987. Those were my exact words. But I would prefer not to."

He said his wife Imelda would probably give up all her government positions next year.

Mr. Marcos, asked about comments by Prime Minister Cesar Virata that government elements might have been involved in the Aquino murder, answered: "We will investigate the possibility of any elements of the government being involved."

Hong Kong starts mopping up after Typhoon Ellen

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong, battered for hours by Typhoon Ellen which killed at least six people, Friday began sweeping away the debris and slowly sprang back to life.

The government said that, apart from the dead, 239 people were injured after winds of up to 240 kilometres an hour had roared across the South China Sea. It reported three more people missing after a fishing boat ran aground.

Emergency crews Friday battled against continuing high winds to restore essential services, clearing trees, scaffolding, and billboards which blocked roads.

The government added that 25 ships in the busy port had reported they were in trouble, including 22 that had run aground during the storm.

Dozens of ocean-going vessels had crammed into the harbour to escape the brunt of the storm. They ranged from small freighters to the 15,349-ton Oriental Express, a Panamanian-registered passenger and cargo liner formerly known as The President Wilson.

A British navy vessel rescued the crew of the 9,511-ton

Singapore-registered Golden Fortune following a Mayday call.

The crew of the 5,100-ton Liberator freighter, Pacific Coral, which also sent out a distress call, were said by the government to be out of danger, but still on board.

Earlier reports had said it was in danger of sinking.

The number eight storm signal, a warning of consistent gale force winds, was lowered in late afternoon, more than 24 hours after it was first hoisted sending millions of Hong Kong workers rushing home early.

But for eight hours Friday the number 10 signal, the highest, was hoisted by the royal observatory for the first time in four years, as Ellen hovered about 50 kilometres south of Hong Kong before hitting Portuguese-administered Macao and the South China Coast.

Screaming winds, accompanied by driving rain, rocked buildings and widespread damage was reported from all parts of the colony. Trees and scaffolding crashed down and across roads and air conditioners were torn out of windows. Police warned tourists to stay in their hotels because of flying glass.

Flight 007: Anatomy of a disaster

LONDON (R) — A week after the Korean airliner disaster, experts are still seeking answers that could tell if it was a case of cold-blooded murder, or mistaken identity. Many questions remain unanswered as analysts seek an explanation why Korean Airlines flight 007 from New York to Seoul with 269 people on board went disastrously off course and ended up at the bottom of the Sea of Japan.

Aviation experts say there are two key puzzles — why the jumbo jet strayed so far off course into sensitive Soviet airspace and whether Soviet fighters knew that they were firing at it.

The United States and the Soviet Union offered widely conflicting accounts.

All sides seem to agree on one point: The plane left its scheduled course over the northern Pacific Ocean and veered westward over the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula.

From then onwards the two versions differ sharply. Washington said the jumbo left its course for an unclear, innocent reason and was easily identifiable as civilian.

The Soviet Union says the plane strayed 510 kilometres into its airspace deliberately, flying over Kamchatka, the sea Okhotsk and Sakhalin Island — all containing top-secret military installations — on a spying mission for the U.S.

The rival versions differ sharply on what preceded the downing of the plane.

Moscow said the Korean Boeing 747 at first ignored calls from ground stations, then signals from interceptors including tracer warning shots fired along its path.

The Americans say no attempt was made by the Soviet pilots to contact the aircraft.

Western aviation experts dispute Moscow's account. They say the transcript of taped conversations between Soviet fighters and ground control, presented by the U.S. at a U.N. security council debate, suggest the Soviet planes never got close enough to the jumbo to exercise a full interception process.

A veteran pilot said: "The messages of the Soviet pilot seem to indicate preparations for a kill rather than an interception."

The visibility factor

While Moscow said visibility in the interception area was poor, President Reagan said it was "a clear night with a half-moon."

Moscow said the jumbo was flying without navigational lights. A communication from a Soviet pilot, recorded in the published transcript, said: "The A.N.O. 1 Air Navigational Lights are burning. The (strobe) light is flashing."

Initial Soviet reports accused the U.S. of masterminding an espionage flight. "It was obviously thought possible to attain special intelligence aims without hindrance using civilian planes as a cover," the TASS news agency said.

Then Moscow introduced a new element. A Soviet general said the interceptor did not realise it was a civilian aircraft.

"The plane was flying without lights and its shape in many respects resembles the American reconnaissance craft RC-135. The pilot could not determine what function the intruding plane was carrying out," he said.

U.S. officials said an RC-135 passed close to the jumbo about two hours before it disappeared from radar screens. But it said the spy plane, a modified version of a Boeing 707, was 1,610 kilometres away and had landed in Alaska when the incident occurred.

To support its allegation of espionage, Moscow said Washington failed to warn the Korean plane's pilots of their course error although it later appeared the Americans were monitoring events.

The U.S. said that recordings of the interception were analysed only after the plane had disappeared.

Moscow said the pilot tried to contact the jumbo on the international distress signal.

But aviation experts in London say any radio contact between military and civilian aircraft is complicated by the fact that they use different frequencies.

Japan said its monitoring stations had recorded the following four lines from the Soviet interceptor before flight 007 ended on the night of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1:

1821.30 GMT: "The target is flashing its lights."

1825.16: "Have switched on (missile)."

1826.20: "Launched."

1826.21: "The target (was) destroyed."

Tokyo said the plane disappeared from radar screens at 1838 GMT.

No complete breakdown

Western experts say it is difficult to imagine a complete breakdown of navigational systems, lights and communications on a Boeing 747.

They say one possible explanation for an aircraft going so far off course is pilot error in feeding information into the plane's computerised navigation systems.

The standard procedure is for a pilot, once his flight plan is approved to punch on the keyboard of his navigation system the latitude and longitude of various points along the route.

The automatic pilot then makes sure the plane follows the programmed route and any marginal error in feeding the information could mean a significant deviation from course.

There is also no explanation why Soviet ground control, using the 121.5 megahertz international distress frequency, could not alert the crew to the error during the two-and-a-half hours the plane was shadowed.

Although air controllers can normally detect planes on their radars over land, the limited range of radar scanners means aircraft cannot be detected over the high seas such as the northern Pacific. The pilot would be solely responsible for the direction in which his plane was flying, experts said.

Japan said its radar picked up the Korean airliner only for about 17 minutes before it crashed but controllers had no way of knowing it was flight 007.

Another question is whether the Korean crew knew they were being intercepted.

Japan said recordings showed the jumbo was flashing its lights, a signal that was responding to interception, just before it was shot down.

Aviation experts say that if early morning visibility was poor, the interceptor would have had to position his aircraft just in front of the jumbo for the crew to see it.

The distance between intruder and interceptor is also a clue as to whether the Soviet pilots knew they were dealing with a civilian aircraft.

"Only a close, side-on view would have made clear beyond any doubt to the interceptor he was facing the distinctive jumbo," one expert said.

The Boeing 747 is larger and has a different profile from the smaller Boeing 707.

Experts say the tragedy is likely to remain a mystery as key evidence, such as the black box containing communications among the crew, is not likely to be found.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reagan task force to study hunger

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has appointed a 13-member task force to investigate reports that many Americans live by recession are going hungry. The task force on food assistance, headed by James Clayburn La Force, dean of the Graduate School of Management at the University of California in Los Angeles, was asked to submit a report by next Jan. 31. In announcing his intention recently to create the new task force, Mr. Reagan said he was puzzled by reports that the number of hungry Americans was rising.

Police allege plot against Washington

CHICAGO (R) — A wealthy real estate broker has been charged with plotting to hire a gunman to kill Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, who was elected earlier this year as the city's first black civil leader. Lawrence Oberman, 38, was arrested outside his home Thursday and ordered held on \$4 million bond. Police said a narcotics informant, from whom Mr. Oberman was alleged to have bought cocaine, tipped them to the plot. Mr. Oberman was also charged with cocaine possession. Mr. Oberman had tried to hire the informant to shoot Mayor Washington, police said.

6 executed in northwest China

PEKING (R) — Six people, including a woman, were executed in the northwest Chinese city of Xian last Tuesday as part of a continuing crackdown on crime, according to a provincial newspaper. Dozens of people have been reported executed all over China since the middle of August. The Shaanxi daily said Ye Lihua had murdered her two-year-old nephew as a means of getting revenge on her husband and his family after quarrelling with him.

Labour continues soul-searching

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party was warned Friday that its membership has fallen to the lowest level since World War II and action is needed to reverse a 30-year decline. General Secretary James Mortimer said the party's annual report that quick, superficial reasons for Labour's crushing defeat in the June general election that returned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's conservative government to power for the next five years would not suffice.

Brunei said bans British textbooks

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — The Sultan of Brunei has banned British textbooks used to teach English because they contain references to bars, alcohol and parties, a Brunei newspaper reported Friday. The English-language weekly Borneo Bulletin quoted education officials as saying students would not understand the references which were culturally unsuitable. The officials said some of the books described kissing, showed women in skirts and depicted other behaviour discouraged by Islam, the official religion.

Maldives leader alleges coup plot

NEW DELHI (R) — Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said Friday his government had uncovered a plot to replace him as leader of the strategically-located Indian Ocean archipelago. He described the plot as "not serious at all" but said two judges alleged to be involved were under house arrest and police were still investigating the affair. Mr. Gayoom, on a state visit to India, has been leader of the coral island chain since 1978 and is expected to be re-elected as president for a further five-year term in a national referendum on Sept. 30. A few weeks before the first round vote on Aug. 22, Mr. Gayoom said a Maldives businessman to probe Members of Parliament to choose himself as president.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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LEAD FROM THE RIGHT HAND

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 9542
♥ A973
♦ A84
♣ 72

WEST
♠ J76
♥ Q1086
♦ 2
♣ 98654

EAST
♠ A
♥ J52
♦ QJ10975
♣ KQJ

SOUTH
♠ KQ1083
♥ K4
♦ K63
♣ A103

The bidding:

East South West North
1 ♦ Dble Pass 1 ♠
2 ♣ 2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Two of ♣.

You can never be too careful when playing a hand. This hand from a recent tournament shows what can happen if you get careless.

South considered himself too strong for a simple overcall, so he started with a takeout double and then introduced his suit at his next turn. We admire the way North took all the strain off his partner by jumping to four spades instead of mak-

ing pusillanimous raise to three spades.

It was obvious that West's lead of the two of diamonds was a singleton. Some declarers won in dummy and led a trump. East took the ace and returned the queen of diamonds, and West ruffed away declarer's king. Since declarer still had a loser in each minor suit, that meant down one.

Some declarers did slightly better technically, but with the same outcome. To protect against having the king of diamonds ruffed, they won the first trick in hand and led the king of spades. East won the ace perforce, but now West had a second trump trick and the declarer still had to lose a trick in each minor — down one again!

The successful declarers combined the two methods. They won the first trick in hand with the king of diamonds, then crossed to the ace of hearts in dummy to lead a trump. That protected against a singleton ace in the East hand. If East returned a diamond after taking the ace of trumps, West would be ruffing declarer's loser. In any event, declarer would lose no more than one trick in each suit except hearts.

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